

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of linking business interests, comprising the steps of:

receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;

providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider; and

linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets[[],];

combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business; and

negotiating between the plurality of linked customers for an equity stake in the at least one new business ~~wherein the business venture assets are well suited to be create new businesses when combined.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said business venture assets consist of a group including equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business venture assets.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider by an order of hierarchy.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the provider utilizes a computer system to implement the linking of business venture assets.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the computer system uses the internet in the form of a web portal.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for linking business interests to customers, the computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;

providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider; and

linking the plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ customers to said business venture assets;
and
combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked
customers to create at least one new business.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein said business venture assets consist of a group including equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business venture assets.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for linking business interests, comprising:

- one or more processors; and
- a memory communicatively coupled to the one or more processors, the memory including one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
 - receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;
 - providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider; ~~and~~
 - linking the plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ customers to said business venture assets~~[[,]]~~ and
 - combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business, wherein each of the linked customers negotiate for an equity stake in the at least one new business ~~wherein the business-venture assets are well suited to create new businesses when combined.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said business venture assets consist of a group including equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business venture assets.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.